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EXPLORATION FOR PETROLEUM AND PRODUCTION  
BY THE UKRNEFT' ASSOCIATION  
DURING THE FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 1953

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

## Exploration

A Pravda Ukrainy article of 20 June 1953 by K. Stukalov, chief engineer of the Ukrneft' Association, stated that there had been extensive geological surveying work and prospecting for petroleum and gas in the Carpathian area. It was said that especially great success had been attained in Stanislavskaya Oblast. As a result, there was a substantial increase in production at an oil field in this oblast. (1)

Pravda Ukrainy of 13 August 1953 contained an article by N. Klitochenko, chief geologist of the Ukrneft' Association, which discussed successes in prospecting for petroleum in the Carpathian area, and which criticized scientific institutions of the Ukraine for an unrealistic approach toward geological surveying work.

The article pointed out the important role of the Carpathian area, with its rich reserves of petroleum, natural gas, ozocerite, and oil shales, in the fulfillment of the 19th Party Congress directives on the provisions of the Fifth Five-Year Plan calling for the development of the petroleum and gas industries.

Klitochenko further reported that the discovery of new gas deposits in the area of the outer foothills (vneshe nye predgor'ye) of the Carpathian Mountains had been the crowning discovery of Soviet prospectors. This discovery made it possible for the Ukrkaz Association to increase its production of natural gas almost tenfold in comparison with 1945, and to take a leading place in the system of the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry USSR. After the above-mentioned discovery, new petroleum deposits were discovered in the area of the Carpathian oil fields, and as a result the Ukrneft' Association increased its production of fuel.

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The article further reported that, despite the progress made in the study of the geology of the Carpathian area, the attention of scientists had not been directed toward the solution of a number of important problems. For example, the article complained that there had been no compilation of a single stratigraphic plan of the sedimentary deposits of the Carpathian area. Each scientific institution was said to have its own plan of the deposits.

Klitochenko charged that scientific institutions were paying too much attention to detail, and not giving production workers information on the promise of larger areas with respect to productivity. Specific criticism was leveled at the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR and the Ukrainian Affiliate of the All-Union Petroleum Scientific Research Institute. The article also reported that insufficient support was being given to the Ukrneftegeofizika Trust. (2)

#### Production Record

Pravda Ukraine of 30 April 1953 reported that the Ukrneft' Association fulfilled the April plan for production of fuel on 29 April. Oil fields No 6 and No 7 of this association fulfilled the 4-month plan on 24 April. (3)

According to Trud of 23 May 1953, Oil Field No 7 of the Ukrneft' Association shipped a trainload of petroleum above the 5-month plan on 22 May. This oil field, by producing new petroleum-bearing horizons, had produced three times more petroleum during 1953 than during the corresponding period of 1952. (4)

Sovetskaya Estoniya of 18 June 1953 reported that Oil Field No 7 of the Ukrneft' Association fulfilled the 7-month plan for production of petroleum on 15 June. (5)

A Pravda Ukraine article of 20 June 1953 reported that drillers and production workers of the Borislavneft' Trust were fulfilling their pledges, and that secondary methods of production were receiving great emphasis at this trust. Oil Field No 9 (manager, I. Shchepanik) of the Borislavneft' Trust was mentioned as ranking high in the competition among oil fields. (1)

According to a Pravda Ukraine article of 25 June 1953, the Ukrneft' Association fulfilled the half-year plan for petroleum production on 24 June, with Oil Field No 7 winning first place in the competition. The Drogobych petroleum refineries and the Ukrburgaz Trust also fulfilled the half-year plan ahead of schedule. (6)

On 23 July 1953, Pravda Ukraine reported that the Ukrneft' Association had fulfilled the 7-month plan for production of fuel on 21 July. Oil Field No 7 held first place in competition among the Carpathian oil fields and was producing three times as much fuel as called for by the daily plan. Oil fields No 1 and No 9 were also producing much above-plan fuel.

The article further reported that production of petroleum by the Ukrneft' Association during the first half of 1953 was 7.2 percent greater than during the first half of 1952. Moreover, in June 1953 the cost of production per ton of petroleum was 16 percent less than in 1952. (7)

According to Pravda Ukraine of 25 August 1953, the Ukrneft' Association fulfilled the 8-month plan 15 days ahead of schedule. (8)

Turkmenskaya Iskra of 12 September 1953 reported that, as of 10 September, oil fields of the Ukrneft' Association were shipping above-plan petroleum to consumers. As of 10 September, the association was producing 12 percent more liquid

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fuel than during 1952. It was further reported that for 3 months Oil Field No 7 of the Ukrneft' Association had been producing above the 1953 plan. (9)

#### Production Technology

An article in Pravda Ukrainy of 15 May 1953 (datelined Skhodnitsa, Drogobychskaya Oblast) by P. Ivanitskiy, a sector chief of Oil Field No 5 of the Borislavneft' Trust, concerned the rejuvenation of Carpathian oil fields which had been considered exhausted for a long time. The author's field was cited as an example.

Ivanitskiy stated that the deepening of old oil wells had become the principal means of increasing petroleum production at the Borislav oil fields. Another important factor in increasing production was the replacement of the brigade form of organization with complex cost accounting sectors. The new form of organization placed at the disposal of the sector chief the technology necessary for completing underground and surface repairs, and the necessary staff of workers, including a geologist, a surveying group, and a production foreman. (10)

A 22 June 1953 Pravda Ukrainy article by M. Lesishin, director of the Petroleum Pumping Office of the Borislavneft' Trust, described technological improvements made at the Borislav oil fields. It was reported that a delegation of Borislav oil workers had visited Baku in May 1953 to become acquainted with the methods of producing, storing, and pumping of petroleum, with drilling methods, and with labor management practices at Baku. This visit made possible certain comparisons between the Baku fields and the Borislav fields.

The author reported that, while the Borislav oil fields used to be far behind the Baku fields in technology, there was no longer such a great difference in the technological level of the two regions. He stated that the Borislav fields have perfected pumping jacks and deep-well pumps of the newest design. Another improvement cited was the conversion of oil well operations to electric power.

The author also reported that the practice of hermetization in production of fuel was being introduced at the Borislav fields. Centralization of collection and the closed system of production (zakrytaya dobycha) were termed the main factors in raising the quality of production. It was stated that tens of thousands of tons of light petroleum fractions were being conserved at the Borislav oil fields each year.

Another improvement Lesishin reported was the solution of the problem of slow-speed pumping of petroleum from periodically operating oil wells. Following the example of the Baku oil workers, the Borislav workers increased the length of stroke of pumping jacks, and thus increased production.

The article stated that the Borislav workers were far behind the Baku workers in the de-emulsification (i.e., separation) and refining (ochistka) of petroleum. The introduction of the Baku method of refining petroleum was expected to result in an increase in labor productivity and a substantial saving. The author stated that Borislav workers had obtained the plans and blueprints for petroleum distillation furnaces (nefteochistitel'nyye pechi) from Baku and had proceeded with the construction of the furnaces. He added that Borislav had a technical base which permitted the construction of such units without special difficulties. (11)

A Pravda Ukrainy article of 14 August 1953 by K. Gavrilkevich, chief engineer of the Borislavneft' Trust, discussed improvements in production technology adopted by the Borislavneft' Trust on the basis of technology developed at the Baku fields, and a visit made by workers of the Molotovneft' Trust of the Azneft' Association to Borislav.

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Gavrillekovich reported that the reconstruction of the petroleum industry of the Carpathian area began immediately after World War II. At first, the Carpathian oil fields occasioned losses to the state, but after the adoption of a collective form of labor and cost accounting, millions in profits were obtained each year, according to the article.

The author reported that at Borislav turbodrills were used to drill deep oil wells and the "Bakinets" tractor-crane was used in executing underground repair of oil wells. He stated that the Borislavneft' Trust had created the technical basis for employing secondary methods of exploitation. Powerful compressor stations had been built, communications had been prepared, injection wells had been rigged, and oil fields designated for repressuring with air had been studied. Lastly, it was reported that the oil fields of the Borislavneft' Trust were producing a substantial quantity of petroleum by means of artificial pressure.

Another article in the same issue of Pravda Ukrainy stated that more than 90 percent of the petroleum produced at Borislav was produced by means of deep-well pumps. This article added that electric power was used widely in oil field operations at Borislav. (12)

## SOURCES

1. Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 20 Jun 53
2. Ibid., 13 Aug 53
3. Ibid., 30 Apr 53
4. Moscow, Trud, 23 May 53
5. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 18 Jun 53
6. Pravda Ukrainy, 25 Jun 53
7. Ibid., 23 Jul 53
8. Ibid., 25 Aug 53
9. Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 12 Sep 53
10. Pravda Ukrainy, 15 May 53
11. Ibid., 22 Jun 53
12. Ibid., 14 Aug 53

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